

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /067 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6120

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, US, VM
SUBJECT: AUGUST 9 LE MATIN ARTICLE ON US RELATIONS
WITH VIETNAM

REF: STATE 204770

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE IN
LE MATIN OF AUGUST 9 ENTITLED "U.S. - VIETNAM, PHAM
VAN DONG APPROACHES WASHINGTON."
2. "WE HOPE TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH HANOI BEFORE
THE END OF THE YEAR." THE US OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS HAS TOLD LE MATIN.
3. THE US OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS WITHIN
THE US GOVERNMENT COMMENTED YESTERDAY, IN A PRUDENT
BUT POSITIVE MANNER, ON THE VIEWS RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY
VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG CONCERNING
VIETNAM'S DESIRE TO "ESTABLISH NOT ONLY NORMAL BUT TRULY
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES."
4. "WE ARE WATCHING THE EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION WITH
MUCH INTEREST. AND WE HOPE TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH
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HANOI BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE YEAR, EVEN
THOUGH A DATE HASN'T YET BEEN FIXED." SAID
(ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS)
RICHARD HOLBROOKE TO LE MATIN YESTERDAY. HOLBROOKE
MADE A FIRST EFFORT LAST SPRING IN PARIS AT
NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES.

5. ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG SAID LAST WEEK TO AN AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION THAT HIS COUNTRY WISHED NOT ONLY NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, BUT ALSO TO ESTABLISH BONDS OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP.

6. THIS STATEMENT, REPORTED LESS THAN ONE MONTH AFTER A STATEMENT IN THE SAME VEIN BY VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PHAN HIEN, HAS BEEN GENERALLY INTERPRETED AS A SIGNAL THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF HANOI ARE READY TO OVERCOME THE PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS: RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM WHICH WAS A PRECONDITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, IN KEEPING

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WITH A PROMISE MADE BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON.

7. "WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION INDICATING THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAVE ADOPTED THIS POSITION" INSISTED RICHARD HOLBROOKE. IT WAS IN BANGKOK, IN FACT, THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION MADE PUBLIC THE STATEMENTS MADE TO THEM BY PHAM VAN DONG IN THE COURSE OF AN EIGHT DAY VISIT TO VIETNAM ORGANIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPATRIATION TO THE

US OF 29 AMERICAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

8. COMPOSED OF ASSISTANTS TO SENATOR KENNEDY, WHO PRESIDES OVER THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, THIS DELEGATION NOTED THAT THE RESPONSIBLE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ARE NOW READY TO ACCELERATE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WITHOUT POSING CONDITIONS ON WASHINGTON. IN ABOUT TEN DAYS ANOTHER AMERICAN DELEGATION, ORGANIZED THIS TIME BY A CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF CONGRESS, SONNY MONTGOMERY, WILL PAY A VISIT TO VIETNAM TO LOOK INTO QUESTIONS OF AMERICANS WHO DISAPPEARED DURING THE WAR, WHO HANOI HAS ALSO PLEDGED TO REPATRIATE.

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9. IN WASHINGTON THESE MANIFESTATIONS OF VIETNAMESE GOOD WILL ARE BEING FOLLOWED CLOSELY AND IT IS HOPED THEY WILL BRING ABOUT A QUICK UNBLOCKING OF THE SITUATION. "WE KNOW WELL THAT WE NEED EACH OTHER" A HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE RECENTLY CONFIDED IN US.

10. CONCERNING CAMBODIA, HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IS FAR FROM BEING AS POSITIVE: A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PHNOM PENH IS RULED OUT FOR THE TIME BEING, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED MONDAY IN RESPONSE TO AN OVERTURE ALONG THESE LINES MADE BY IENG SARY, CAMBODIA'S VICE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, IN A RECENT INTERVIEW IN LE IN LE MONDE.
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